

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 08087

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:PEPR, HU, UR
SUBJECT: NEW TIMES COMMENTS ON HUNGARIAN MODEL

REF: BUDAPEST 1498

1. EMBASSY READS WITH INTEREST HUNGARIAN REACTION TO
NEW TIMES ARTICLE (REFTEL). WE AGREE THAT KUZNETSOV'S
ARTICLE ENTITLED SIMPLY "THE MAIN ASSET," INDICATES SOVIET
TOLERANCE FOR HUNGARIAN POLICIES SO FAR. ARTICLE, WHICH
WAS WRITTEN FOR OCCASION OF HUNGARIAN LIBERATION DAY, DOES
NOT ACTUALLY DESCRIBE THE HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC REFORM. IT
REFERS TO THE HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC REFORM AS HAVING
"MODERNIZED THE PRODUCTION STRUCTURE WITH A VIEW TO MAKING
HUNGARIAN PRODUCTS MORE COMPETITIVE AND CUTTING BACK ON
UNPROFITABLE OR INSUFFICIENTLY PROFITABLE PRODUCTION." IT
ALSO SPEAKS OF THE REFORM AS HAVING "RELEASED AN ENORMOUS
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RESERVE OF CREATIVE ENERGY, ENTERPRISE AND INITIATIVE,
HEIGHTENING THE STANDARDS OF ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT." THESE
ARE ALL OBJECTIVES OF SOVIET POLICY MAKERS, AS WELL, EVEN
IF THEY ARE UNWILLING TO TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE
THEM.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT KUZNETSOV EMPHASIZES

CENTRAL ROLE OF THE HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY IN ALL ASPECTS OF HUNGARIAN LIFE, INCLUDING THE ECONOMY. THE RETENTION OF A CENTRAL ROLE FOR THE PARTY, WHICH MUST ALWAYS BE FULLY IN CONTROL, IS THE TOUCHSTONE OF SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD ECONOMIC REFORM. WHATEVER DOUBTS THEY MAY ENTERTAIN, SOVIETS DO APPEAR TO ACCEPT "HUNGARIAN MODEL" AS MEETING THIS MINIMUM REQUIREMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ADOPT IT. THEY PREFER MODELS THAT ARE CLOSER TO THE SOVIET SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT LOCAL CONDITIONS AFFECT THE DEGREE TO WHICH OTHER ECONOMIES CONFORM TO IT. TOON

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